United Nations A/RES/64/218

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 March 2010

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 57 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/64/424/Add.3)]

64/218. Human resources development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999, 56/189 of 21 December 2001, 58/207 of 23 December 2003, 60/211 of 22 December 2005 and 62/207 of 19 December 2007,

Stressing that human resources development is key to the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to expand opportunities for people, in particular for the most vulnerable groups of the population,

Stressing also that health and education are at the core of human resources development,

Welcoming the considerable efforts made over the years, yet recognizing that many countries continue to face formidable challenges in developing a sufficient pool of human resources capable of meeting national economic and social needs and that the formulation and implementation of effective human resources strategies often require resources and capacities not always available in developing countries,

Recognizing that the adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis will further diminish the ability of many countries, especially developing countries, to cope with and address human resources development challenges and to formulate and implement effective strategies for poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Stressing that human resources development is even more critical in the current global financial and economic crisis in order to mitigate the worst effects of the crisis and set the basis for future and sustainable recovery,

Acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, transition and destination, recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community, and stressing that the brain drain continues to be a severe problem in many developing and transitioning countries, undermining efforts in the area of human resources development,

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Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

Recognizing that education is the key to promoting the development of human potential, equality and understanding among peoples, as well as to sustaining economic growth and eradicating poverty, and recognizing also that, to achieve those ends, it is essential that quality education be available to all, including indigenous peoples, girls and women, rural inhabitants and persons with disabilities,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and the need for greater support from the international community for the national efforts of developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Stresses* the need for Member States to emphasize and integrate human resources development into national development strategies, including national development policies and strategies to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in order to ensure that human resources development implications are taken into account by all national development stakeholders;

3. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and implement comprehensive human resources development strategies premised on national development objectives that ensure a strong link between education, training and employment, help to maintain a productive and competitive workforce and are responsive to the needs of the economy;

4. *Stresses* that investment in human resources development should be an integral part of national development policies and strategies, and in this regard calls for the adoption of policies to facilitate investment focused on infrastructure and capacity development, including education, health and science and technology, including information and communications technology;

5. *Encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen social protection systems and to adopt policies that strengthen existing safety nets, protect vulnerable groups and boost domestic consumption and production especially to cushion the effect of the crisis and prevent people from falling into poverty, acknowledges in this regard that many developing countries lack the necessary financial resources and capacity to implement such countercyclical measures, and recognizes the need for continued mobilization of additional domestic and international resources, as appropriate;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to adopt cross-sectoral approaches and mechanisms to identify human resources development needs in the medium and long term for all sectors of the economy and to formulate and implement policies and programmes to address those needs;

[1] A/64/329

7. *Calls upon* the international community to assist developing countries in the implementation of national human resources development strategies, and encourages the international community to provide financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance and transfer of technology, as appropriate and on mutually agreed terms;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, including the entities of the United Nations system, to support the efforts of developing countries to address the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases on their human resources, in particular in Africa;

9. *Stresses* that sustainable development is dependent, inter alia, on healthy human resources, calls upon Member States to continue their efforts to strengthen national health systems, urges the further strengthening of international cooperation in the area of health, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health system strengthening, access to medicines, training of health personnel, transfer of technology and production of affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicine, and in this regard stresses that international cooperation and assistance, in particular external funding, need to become more predictable and to be better aligned with national priorities and channelled to recipient countries in ways that strengthen national health systems;

10. *Encourages* efforts by Member States and the international community to promote a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, in particular by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration, and in this regard reiterates the need to consider how the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education affects the development efforts of developing countries;

11. *Calls for* steps to integrate gender perspectives into human resources development, including through policies, strategies and targeted actions aimed at promoting women's capacities and access to productive activities, and in this regard emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of such policies, strategies and actions;

12. *Stresses* the important contributions of the public and private sectors, respectively, in meeting national training and education needs to support the efficient functioning of enterprises and matching the needs of a rapidly changing economy, and encourages the integration of those contributions, including through the greater use of public-private partnerships and incentives;

13. *Calls for* actions at the national, regional and international levels that will give high priority to improving and expanding literacy, as well as science proficiency, including by providing tertiary, technical-vocational and adult education, and stresses the need to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report that reviews lessons learned from the global financial and economic crisis on the requirements for human resources development to help countries to prevent and overcome the negative effects of crises and progress towards a more sustainable path of development;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".

66th plenary meeting
21 December 2009